



newsletter

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON

AUGUST 8, 1986

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6

Ross Armstrong

Swimmer, singer and AIDS activist in Edmonton and Toronto dies July 1 of AIDS-Related illnesses in Toronto at the age of 38.

Ross swam for the University of Guelph (Ont.) for Canada at the Pan-American Games, and for Edmonton at the 1982 Gay Games, where he won three silver medals for the city. He also sang in an Edmonton church choir.

He was Edmonton's first diagnosed AIDS case, and a leading member of the AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton. Last April, in recognition of Ross's contributions, the AIDS NETWORK office was named the Ross Armstrong Office.

"Ross provided us with the strength to keep at it, to overcome the barriers we were meeting", remembers AIDS NETWORK Chairperson Michael Phair. "He inspired us with the combination of his strength and the example he gave."

Ross moved to Toronto last summer to be close to his family. There he performed in the 1985 edition of the gay revue, Fruit Cocktail, and did volunteer work with the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Memorial services took place July 5 in both Toronto and Edmonton. The AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton has created the Ross Armstrong Memorial Fund to provide financial support to those with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex.

Donations can be made care of the AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton, 10233 98 St. Edmonton, Alta. T5J 0M7.

-Reprinted from the Body Politic
August 1986
Ken Popert

AIDS Update

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa is reporting a total of 659 cases of AIDS in Canada (327 dead) as of July 28. This is up 55 from 604 in June. 30 of those cases were diagnosed in Alberta, 18 of whom are deceased.

Coming Events

August 22, 23, 24

DEATH, DYING, LOSS WORKSHOP

Lorraine Fearn-Kupfer will be giving this workshop for up to sixteen participants. The cost will be \$50 per person. If you wish to participate, please contact the AIDS NETWORK by August 15.

September 5, 6, 7

AIDS VIGIL OF PRAYER

The Metropolitan Community Church is arranging a 50 hour prayer vigil in co-operation with Dignity Edmonton, Lutherans Concerned, and the AIDS NETWORK. Events will include: a Dignity Service, an Anglican Service, Educational Workshops, a Social Drop-In, and other activities. For more information, please contact the AIDS NETWORK at 424-4767, or the MCC at 438-5168.

-FLASHBACK-

REMEMBER!! 25¢ from every
beer and highball sold
is donated to the AIDS NETWORK.

Wednesday Nights!

Canadian AIDS Society

In May of 1985 eight community groups met in Montreal as part of the first Canadian AIDS Conference to create a national organization. As a founding member, Edmonton attended a second meeting of the Society in Toronto on the 26 and 27 of July. There are now 19 community groups in Canada and funding for this meeting came from the national AIDS Centre, a branch of Health and Welfare Canada. The two day meeting focused on the national AIDS picture and on the Society's bylaws, functions and possible sources of funding. Of great interest to all groups was the announcement that there will be a second Canadian AIDS Conference in Toronto from October 10 to 13. If you would like further details on the conference or wish to attend, please contact the NETWORK office.

AIDS NETWORK

ROSS ARMSTRONG OFFICE
10233 98 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Phone: 424-4767

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. - Tues. 10:00-6:00
Wed. - Fri. 10:00-9:00

The AIDS NETWORK also
operates an AIDS Information
Phone-Line at 429-AIDS.

Epstein-Barr Virus Study

Increasing scientific evidence suggests that a very common virus, called Epstein-Barr Virus, has important and possibly imperiling effects in persons with HIV infection. The virus is very common and in most people it causes no recognizable symptoms. To some, however, it may cause "mono" (infectious mononucleosis). In persons with impaired immune systems, as in persons with AIDS or ARC, it can have more aggressive effects.

Dr. Stan Houston and the STD Clinic are undertaking a study designed to characterize the association between Epstein-Barr Virus and AIDS. The community's response to the study so far has been good, BUT MORE PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED for the study to be successful. Participants must be gay men who have already taken the HIV Antibody Test, regardless of that result (you may be either reactive or non-reactive for the purposes of this study). The study requires two visits within a one month period, there is no financial gain to participants and confidentiality will be observed. They require twenty-five reactive and twenty-five non-reactive persons. Please help out for all our sakes.

For more information, call Mary Rafter at the STD Clinic @ 427-2834.